

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 SY-10 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 108998

P R 301700Z SEP 73 ZFF-6

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0558

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: INTERNAL SITUATION UNIMPROVED

REF: BAGHDAD 0492

1. DURING 24 HOUR CURFEW SEPT 28-29 BAATH PARTY CIVIL MILITIA MADE HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVAS OF MOST NEIGHBORHOODS. THEY WERE ARMED, BUT POLITE, REQUESTED EACH HOUSEHOLD TO FILL OUT CENSUS TYPE FORM, AND SEARCHED SOME HOUSES THOROUGHLY. DIPLOMATS WERE EXEMPTED. CURFEW AND SEARCH INDICATE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH REGIME VIEWS THREAT FROM BAND OF ASSASSINS AND ITS APPARENT INABILITY TO TRACK THEM DOWN.

2. CRUEL METHODS USED BY MURDERERS AND RCC VP SADDAM HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT THAT CRIMES WERE POLITICAL (BAGHDAD 0518) HAVE CONVINCED
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MOST OBSERVERS THAT ASSASSINS ARE REMNANTS OF NAZIM KZAR'S

ULTRA-SECRET POLICE NETWORK. THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN DIFFICULTY AUTHORITIES ARE HAVING IN OBTAINING CLUES TO IDENTITY OF KILLERS. LATEST VICTIM WAS A MR. SHEIKHLY WHOSE TWO SONS ARE KNOWN TO BE INTELLIGENCEAGENTS. HIS MULTILATED CORPSE FOUND BY SIDE OF ROAD ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO.

3. TO ADD TO REGIME'S TROUBLES, ICP IS ENGAGING IN FULL SCALE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN UNIVERSITY AND ELSEWHERE IN PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS IN UNION AND PREASANT ORGANIZATIONS. NO ONE BELIEVES BAATH IS GOING TO PERMIT COMMUNISTS TO GAIN KEY POSITIONS IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS, BUT REGIME'S CAPABILITY TO CURTAIL ICP ACTIVITIES REDUCED.

4. EGYPTIAN CHARGE CHARACTERIZES CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION AS CHAOS IN WHICH MAIN ENERGIES OF REGIME ARE DEVOTED TO TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH INTERNAL TRANQUILITY. HE BELIEVE ASSASSINS, EVEN IF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, REPRESENT PURELY DESTRUCTIVE FORCE WHICH CANNOT HOPE TO REPLACE REGIME. HE CONSIDERS ARMY STILL BEHIND BAKR/SADDAM REGIME DESPITE SOME ANTI-REGIME ACTION BY A FEW OFFICERS DISCOVERED ABOUT A WEEK AGO (HE PROVIDED NO DETAILS).

5. COMMENT: LINK BETWEEN MURDER GANG AND "SECRET COMMITTEE OF JUNE 30 UPRISING" NOW SEEMS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. WHILE IT MAY BE PURELY DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENT, ONE CANNOT HELP WONDERING IF, LIKE FRANKENSTEIN, IT WILL NOT EVENTUALLY SUCCEED IN DESTROYING ITS CREATOR.

LOWRIE

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30 JUN 2005

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